

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, September 24, 1999

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We know, O God, that people in distress pray for peace and there is no peace; people pray for the stilling of the storm and there is none; people look for healing and yet the illness rages. O gracious God, creator of life and the rock of ages, speak to us in the depths of our souls with eternal hope and grace and strength that You alone can give so we can face the ravages that seem often to rule the world and face that world with confidence and with inner peace. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2466. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2466) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GORTON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr.

HOLLINGS, Mr. REID, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KOHL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be 15 one-minutes on each side.

PRESIDENT VETOES TAX RELIEF PACKAGE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, oftentimes politicians talk about improving people's lives, but usually that is about as far as it goes, just talk.

Well, true to form, yesterday the President had an opportunity to sign into law a bill that would directly help the American taxpayers, but he did not.

The tax relief package just vetoed by this President would have given working families more freedom to run their lives the way they see fit, more freedom giving them more power, more time, more control over their lives. It would have reduced the marriage tax penalty, one of the most blatantly unfair demons in the Tax Code. It would have made it easier for workers to buy and cover themselves with health insurance. It would have made it easier for parents to save for their children's education. It would have eliminated the death tax, making it easier to pass on the family farm or family business to loved ones after a lifetime of work. It would have made it easier to invest and save for our future.

Balanced and fair, it would have provided substantial debt reduction, protected Social Security and Medicare, and provided tax relief to American taxpayers. And Washington would have gotten a little less so that hard-working, taxpaying families could have a little more.

I yield back the balance of any money Mr. and Mrs. America have left in their pockets.

GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, for 5 months, common sense gun safety measures have been stymied by the Republican leadership. Our efforts to

close the loopholes that give kids and criminals easy access to guns have been repeatedly stifled. Every day results in lives that are lost.

Thirteen children in this country are killed by guns every day, 13 American youngsters every single day. The other side argues that no laws can stop bad men with evil in their hearts from shooting innocent people. Perhaps they are right. But they are masking a very important truth.

I am sad to say that thousands of children are killed by guns by accident. These children find loaded guns without safety locks and they pull the trigger. The frequency of these deaths is heartbreaking, and they could be prevented.

I urge my colleagues to pass the common sense measures that could reduce our country's epidemic of gun deaths.

Today I continue reading the names of children who have been killed by guns since Columbine:

Kenneth Acoff, age 17, killed by gunfire on September 4, 1992, Cleveland, Ohio; Casey Crow, age 15, killed by gunfire on September 6, 1999, Maple Heights, Ohio; Nicholas Lenz, age 13, killed by gunfire on September 9, 1999, Clear Lake, Iowa; George Mark, age 17, killed by gunfire on September 12, 1999, Quinhagak Alaska; Joseph B. Frazier, age 16, killed by gunfire on September 14, 1999, Durham, North Carolina; Cassandra Griffin, age 14, killed by gunfire on September 15, 1999, Fort Worth, Texas.

PROGRESSIVE INCOME TAX SOCIALISM

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in 1848, Karl Marx said, a progressive income tax is needed to transfer wealth and power to the state. Thus, Marx's Communist Manifesto had as its major economic tenet a progressive income tax.

Think about it, 1848 Karl Marx, Communism. Now, if that is not enough to tax our history, 1999, United States of America, progressive income tax socialism. Stone cold socialism.

I say it is time to replace the progressive income tax with a national retail sales tax, and it is time to abolish the IRS, my colleagues.

I yield back all the rules, regulations, fear, and intimidation of our current system.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.